

**Remarks**

In response to the Final Office Action dated May 22, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. The above Amendment adopts suggestions made by the Examiner in the interview of August 26, 2003 and thus only requires a cursory review. Furthermore, entry of the above Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 in that the Amendment (1) places the claims in condition for allowance or, if necessary, in better condition for consideration on appeal; and (2) does not raise any new issues requiring further consideration or search. For the reasons given above, entry of the above amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

In the present application, claims 1, 12, and 24 have been amended and claims 7, 19, and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 12, and 24 have been amended to include the limitations of now cancelled claims 7, 19, and 30 and further to specify that the positioning support may also comprise a ratchet hinge. Support for these amendments may be found on page 6, lines 27-29. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-36 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-31 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Youens (U.S. Patent 5,764,474) in view of Clancy, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,168,427).

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-31 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Youens in view of Clancy, et al. Youens discloses a keyboard having a positioning support ("mounting plate" 50 in Fig. 2) for adjusting a slope of the keyboard from a closed storage/transport position to a tilted use orientation at a fixed angle relative to an underlying main body (indicated by reference numeral 24 in Fig. 2). See Fig. 2 and Col. 4, lines

25-34. Youens, however, fails to teach, disclose or suggest a positioning support for extending and adjusting a slope of a keyboard housing such that the keyboard housing is positioned at a plurality of angles between an open position and a closed position relative to the keyboard housing and wherein the positioning support is at least one of a thumbscrew, a ratchet hinge, and a flap, as specified in amended independent claims 1, 12 and 24.

Clancy, et al., relied on to cure the deficiencies in Youens, discloses a keyboard which includes a pawl member (shown by reference numeral 8 in Figs. 5A-8 and by reference numeral 80a in Fig. 9) which permits the keyboard to be tilted from a closed storage/transport orientation to an open tilted use orientation when notches 118 and 120 are engaged by detent member 78. Clancy, et al. further teaches that the pawl member may also include a notch for permitting the keyboard to be tilted to and releasably latched in a single fixed intermediate tilted use position between its closed storage/transport orientation and its open tilted use orientation (See Figs. 5A, 5C, and Col. 8, lines 8-19).

However, Clancy, et al. fails to teach, disclose or suggest a positioning support including at least a thumbscrew, a ratchet hinge, and a flap for extending and adjusting a slope of a keyboard housing such that the keyboard housing is positioned at a plurality of angles (i.e., a plurality of intermediate use positions) between an open position and a closed position relative to the keyboard housing, as specified in amended independent claims 1, 12 and 24. Furthermore, Clancy, et al. would fail to function as designed with a positioning support comprising a thumbscrew, a ratchet hinge, and a flap as specified in amended independent claims 1, 12, and 24 as the detent member 78 (as shown in Fig. 6, for example) would be unable to engage any of the aforementioned positioning supports to tilt the keyboard. Thus, since based on the foregoing, neither Youens nor Clancy, et al., alone or in combination, teach, disclose or suggest the

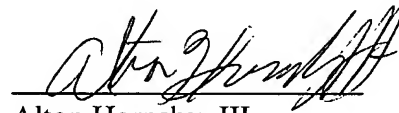
recitations of amended independent claims 1, 12 and 24, these claims are allowable and the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 and 9-11 depend from amended independent claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 as well as the additional recitations specified therein. Similarly, claims 13-18 and 21-23 depend from amended independent claim 12 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 12 as well as the additional recitations specified therein. Finally, claims 25-29, 31 and 33-36 depend from amended independent claim 24 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 24 as well as the additional recitations specified therein. Therefore, the rejections of dependent claims 2-6, 9-11, 13-18, 21-23, 24-29 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Alton Hornsby, III  
Registration No. 47,299  
September 17, 2003  
404-954-5100

Merchant & Gould P.C.  
3200 IDS Center  
80 South Eighth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2215